

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Betsy Hart 202-226-8555**

**HERSETH SANDLIN INVITES SOUTH DAKOTANS TO RURAL ISSUES FORUM WITH SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE**

**Washington, DC {September 29, 2009}-** Today, Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin released details for U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack's visit to the Aberdeen area on October 5th. This spring, Rep. Herseth Sandlin invited Secretary Vilsack to tour the extensive flood damage in northeastern South Dakota and hold a town hall meeting with farmers and ranchers.

The morning of October 5th, Secretary Vilsack, Rep. Herseth Sandlin and Brown County emergency management personnel will survey flood damage.

In the afternoon, Secretary Vilsack and Rep. Herseth Sandlin will hold a Rural Issues Forum at the Hundstad Farm to discuss issues of critical importance to South Dakota's farmers, ranchers and rural communities such as disaster relief for flooding and grasshoppers, homegrown energy and funding for rural development initiatives.

**WHO:** USDA Secretary Vilsack, Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, South Dakotans

**WHAT:** Rural Issues Forum

**WHERE:** Jim and Barbara Hundstad's Farm, Bath, SD

**Directions:** 4.5 miles south of Hwy 12 on Brown County 16

**WHEN:** Monday, October 5th, 1:30 PM

**###**